



Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney



Weekly Newsletter

The Assumption of the BVM 15 August 2021

Liturgy Times

SUNDAY:

8:30am, 10:00am.

Children's Liturgy during school term

TUESDAY: 8:30am Adoration, 9.15am Mass

WEDNESDAY: 7:00am

THURSDAY: 9:15am

FRIDAY: 8:30am Adoration, 9.15am Mass

SATURDAY: 9:00am

(Adoration and Reconciliation after Mass)

5:00pm (Vigil Mass)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 9:30-10:00am; 4:25-4:50pm



Each new day of the lockdown feels increasingly more like 'just another day.' How quickly our perception of "normal" can change! Nevertheless, we only have to take a step back and see through the lens of our entire lives to realise just how startling and surreal the current situation is. The default behaviour is supposed to be 'staying home unless absolutely necessary.' The residents of Beverly Hills are all masked up even on the most gorgeous of days. The footpaths are eerily deserted after the sunset. The restaurants look unsure of whether they are open or not. The media has not stopped talking about the same topic for the past 18 months, not even for a single day. And we are still clueless as to how the story is going to end.

Everyone needs hope - something to look forward to, something which, if they are lucky, gets them out of bed in the morning. Hope is what drives us when we participate in finding dreams, aiming for excellence, traveling the world, falling in love, building a career/business/family, watching the loved ones grow, barracking for a sport team, enjoying leisure or retirement, etc., all the while wondering every now and then what deeper meaning of life might still be hidden from us. The challenge with the current situation is not just that what we used to look forward has been taken from us but also that hope itself has come under threat. Is 'hope' really worth having especially when so much can change so quickly? Could the ultimate lesson of the pandemic be that it is better not to hope since all is, in the end, futile?

This Sunday we celebrate hope by proclaiming the fact that Mary has been assumed into heaven. Love was proven to be more powerful than death when Jesus rose from the dead. Mary, who was perfectly united with him in love, was pulled by the force of that love to be brought to where he was. Even the body followed where the soul went before. When love overcomes sin entirely, there is no division, only unity. The celebration of Assumption is a celebration of hope because it tells us how the story is really going to end. Yes, trials will come our way, to the point of making us feel helpless at times. But God has a plan. The Lord said to St Paul, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' (2 Cor 12:9) Even death itself becomes a reason for hope when we trust in the story written by God. It is a story we could not have written ourselves - full of surprises and accelerating on the path of humility. When faced with a sense of helplessness we can choose *faith in humility* rather than despair in self-enclosure. This fills us with hope - the most authentic hope which has become reality in Mary as a sign of hope for the rest of us!

Next Sunday is the parish feast day - the feast of Regina Coeli (Queen of Heaven)! **Parishioners are invited to submit photos of themselves or their families so that these can be placed on a board at the Altar of Our Lady.** The arrangement will remain in place for a month or so, as a prayerful gesture of invoking the protection of Our Lady Queen of Heaven. Please drop off the photos at the parish office or email digital copies (beverlyhillspriest@gmail.com). Or please contact the parish office so that someone can come and collect the photo from you. If you like, write your detail on the back of the photo so that it can be returned to you at the end. Please try to do this by Friday 20 August so that our volunteers can set up the Altar of Our Lady in time for the parish feast on 22 August!

- Fr Peter -

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Fr Peter Kwak PP

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The Week Ahead

Sun 15 August Assumption	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass
Mon 16 August	No Mass
Tue 17 August	9.15am Mass
Wed 18 August	7am Mass
Thu 19 August	9.15am Mass
Fri 20 August St Bernard	9.15am Mass
Sat 21 August St Pius X	7.00am Mass 7.25-8.00am Adoration 9.55am & Reconciliation 4.15-4.45pm Reconciliation 5pm Vigil Mass
Sun 22 August Regina Coeli!	8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass

No Public Mass
During Lockdown

Regarding the Liturgy of the Word

I know that it isn't easy for families to sit down and pray together, especially if they are not used to doing it. But the benefit of being able to pray together is likely to be even greater than what we might expect!

Understandably, watching Mass on a screen comes more easily to us. But it seems to me that, while Catholics are deprived of the Sacraments, this is a prime opportunity for strengthening the domestic church by building up the habit of praying together. As they say, 'A family that prays together stays together!'

Of course, there are other ways of praying together as well. For example, if you pray the rosary together, then, you might not have to worry about using the liturgy of the word. But it seems critically important that each family finds at least one form of praying together on a regular basis. Who knows? This could be the beginning of a new and uplifting era!

Recently Deceased

Raja Reegon, Eruthai Marie Reegon & Christopher Reegon, Bernie Langtry, Ron Sang, John Harnett, Patricia Hay, Luigia Zegarelli, Peter Peters, Christopher McDowell, Frank Capra

In Loving Memory

John Bridge, Vanessa Succar, Rosa Germano, Bernie Crawford, Georgia & Philip Spiteri, Fouad Attia, Jeanette Cardoz

Please remember those who are in ill

health especially: Josephina Algozzina, Mil-dred Petit, James Ybasco, Josh Venture, Carmen Bajada, Anne Kensey, Monica Costa, Quang Vo, Matt Nugent, Ann McDowell, Damiano Serravalle, George Dagher, Mrs Saba, Pat Mortimer, Mrs Donald Burch, Mary Daniels, Geoff McDowell, Elena Mura, Mr TD (Terry) Wall, Kim Delaney, Lauren Sotano, Sam Hy, Georgia Brown, Luke Compton, Paul Camelotti.

Rosary Statue

Mrs J. Vincent
14 Warrawee Pl.
Ph: 02 9150 4996

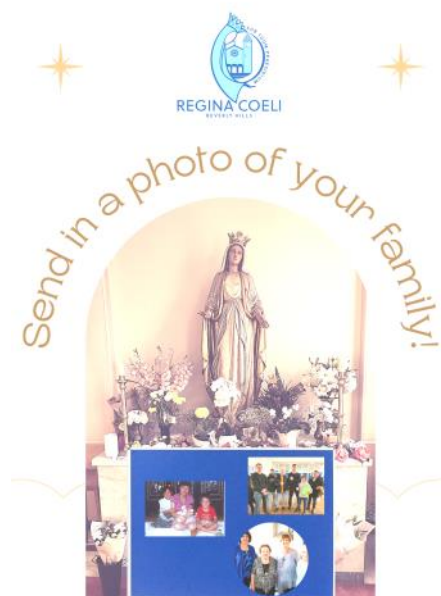


Parish Secretary
TBC
9554 8155
Tues 8:30am-
1:30pm Wed & Fri
10.30am—3.30pm

Sacramental Coordinator/ PSSO
Mrs Elizabeth Gooley
9554 8155
reginasacramental@gmail.com
Tuesday and Thursday from
11.30am - 3.30pm

School Principal
Mr Chris Egan
Asst. Principal
Mr Peter Busch

REC
Mrs Elizabeth
Webster



For Planned Givers

Thank you for your steadfast support. If you would like a receipt for last financial year's giving, please contact the parish office. Please note that there is no longer any tax deductibility. The receipt can be picked up by you, delivered or emailed to you.

*Nothing is more practical than finding God,
than falling in Love in a quite absolute, final way. What you
are in love with,
what seizes your imagination,
will affect everything.
It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning,
what you do with your evenings,
how you spend your weekends, what you read,
whom you know,
what breaks your heart,
and what amazes you with joy and gratitude.
Fall in Love,
stay in love,
and it will decide everything.*

Fr Pedro Arrupe S.J.

Liturgy of the Word

The Assumption of the BVM

Entrance Antiphon (or a choice of song):

A great sign appeared in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon beneath her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader: Elizabeth said of Mary, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.' How wonderful is it to be blessed by being closely united with God! *(Pause)* Let us humbly acknowledge the times when our union with God was compromised by unwise choices. *(Pause)* Let us offer ourselves as channels of God's mercy as Mary was in the most perfect way. *(Pause)*

Leader: You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us pray. *(Pause)* Almighty ever-living God, who assumed the Immaculate Virgin Mary, the Mother of your Son, body and soul into heavenly glory, grant, we pray, that, always attentive to the things that are above, we may merit to be sharers of her glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

- ◆ Please go *slowly* through the readings on Page 4.
- ◆ Pause after each of the readings. Discuss, if you like, what was striking about the reading, perhaps with the help of the reflection questions below.
- ◆ Also, if you like, after the Gospel reading, you can listen to the homily Fr Peter hopes to put up on Facebook/parish website by Sunday morning.

Reflection Questions:

After the 1st reading: In the Old Testament the Ark of the Covenant represented the most central place of God's presence on earth. The Book of Revelation shows a vision of heaven in which the Ark of the Covenant can be seen. This is juxtaposed in the very next verse with the vision of a pregnant woman. How is Mary the new Ark of the Covenant?

After the 2nd reading: All human problems find their deepest cause in sin which compromises humanity's union with God and ushers in misery. In response Jesus went to the absolute limit of our fractured communion, namely, the realm of the dead, so as to bring about new life from there. How should this influence our attitude toward death?

After the Gospel: There is a pattern in how God's invincible power operates. It might not be what we expected but it is the surest way in which divine mercy brings about redemption. Mary is like the perfect blueprint which illustrates what it means to cooperate with God's wisest plan. What do we notice about Mary?

The Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: In our responsorial psalm we heard, 'My soul clings to you; my right hand holds me fast.' St Mary of the Cross found her strength in clinging to the good God in whose providence she trusted. Let us also cling to the Lord as we offer our humble petitions.

Reader: We pray that the leaders of our Church will be strengthened to follow the discipleship of Mary; may she help them in their search for peace. *(Pause)* We pray to the Lord...

All: Lord hear our prayer

We pray for leaders throughout the world that they will respect women and the precious nature of motherhood in their own nations. *(Pause)* We pray to the Lord...

All: Lord hear our prayer

We pray for those who are suffering from illness. May they be strengthened in their difficulties; may those who care for them be full of love and compassion. *(Pause)* We pray to the Lord...

All: Lord hear our prayer

We pray for comfort upon all who are dying and those who care for them. May they have the hope and inner strength that they need and may the prayers of Mary, our Mother, will be with them all. *(Pause)* We pray to the Lord...

All: Lord hear our prayer

(Other intentions may be mentioned here)

Leader: Let us pray in the words our Saviour gave us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Prayer for spiritual communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot receive you sacramentally at present, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already here, and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

(Pause)

Communion Antiphon (or a choice of song):

This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another, says the Lord.

Leader (while everyone makes a sign of the cross): the Lord bless us, keep us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.



First Reading Rv 11:19; 12:1-6, 10

I saw a woman clothed with the sun and with the moon at her feet.

The sanctuary of God in heaven opened, and the ark of the covenant could be seen inside it.

Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman, adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, and with the twelve stars on her head for a crown. She was pregnant, and in labour, crying aloud in the pangs of childbirth. Then a second sign appeared in the sky, a huge red dragon which had seven heads and ten horns, and each of the seven heads crowned with a coronet. Its tail dragged a third of the stars from the sky and dropped them to the earth, and the dragon stopped in front of the woman as she was having the child, so that he could eat it as soon as it was born from its mother. The woman brought a male child into the world, the son who was to rule all the nations with an iron sceptre, and the child was taken straight up to God and to his throne, while the woman escaped into the desert, where God had made a place of safety ready. Then I heard a voice shout from heaven, 'Victory and power and empire for ever have been won by our God, and all authority for his Christ.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 44:10-12. 16. R. v.10

(R.) The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.

1. The daughters of kings are among your loved ones.
On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.
Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words: forget your own people and your father's house. (R.)
2. So will the king desire your beauty: He is your lord, pay homage to him.
They are escorted amid gladness and joy; they pass within the palace of the king. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 15:20-26

As members of Christ all people will be raised, Christ first, and after him all who belong to him.

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order; Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Mary is taken up to heaven,
and the angels of God shout for joy.
Alleluia!**

Gospel Lk 1:39-56

The Almighty has done great things for me; he has lifted up the lowly.

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

And Mary said:

'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
and my spirit exults in God my saviour;
because he has looked upon his lowly
handmaid.
Yes, from this day forward all generations
will call me blessed,
for the Almighty has done great things for
me.
Holy is his name,
and his mercy reaches from age to age for
those who fear him.
He has shown the power of his arm,
he has routed the proud of heart.
He has pulled down princes from their
thrones and exalted the lowly.
The hungry he has filled with good things,
the rich sent empty away.
He has come to the help of Israel his
servant, mindful of his mercy
– according to the promise he made to our
ancestors –
of his mercy to Abraham and to his
descendants for ever.'
Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three
months and then went back home.



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

In the Western church this feast celebrates the assumption of Mary into heaven; in the East it commemorates her dormition or her falling asleep. The readings invite us to reflect on the role that she plays in the mystery of our redemption. Whatever we honour in Mary in some way points to her son.

Over the centuries devotion to Mary has been expressed in forms taken from the culture out of which it developed. Sometimes she is pictured as a humble peasant girl. At other times she is depicted as a queen robed in gold of Ophir who rules from heaven. Probably the most familiar pose is that of a mother with her child. Perhaps the most dramatic of these themes is that of the celestial woman from the vision found in the Book of Revelation. It is because of the cosmic significance of Jesus that this tradition has been applied to Mary.

Though the first reading depicts a cosmic woman, the gospel reading characterises Mary as a simple peasant woman intent on offering service to another. However, the words that are placed in her mouth are words of prophetic challenge. She announces the great reversals of God's good news. The greatness of Mary is a reflection of the greatness of the Son of God whom she bore. He was the firstfruits of salvation. He was the victor who won the kingdom. Her part in this victory was to bring him to birth and into maturity.

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